

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 281514

E.O. 11652: GDS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO JAKARTA FROM CINCPAC
HONOLULU HI 18 DEC 74 (180105Z DEC 74):

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L /PA/

FROM AMBASSADOR NEWSOM

PASS DOD AND NAVY

INDONESIAN SHIP PROCUREMENT

1. (C) FOLLOWING TURNOVER TWO DE.S TO INDONESIA DECEMBER 16,
I HAD OPPORTUNITY CONFER WITH COL GRILLS AND CDR LEWIS OF
DLG RE RECENT INDONESIAN APPROACHES ON FURTHER SHIP PROCURE-
MENT.

2. (C) INDONESIANS HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN NEW CONSTRUC-
TION OF FOUR ASW FRIGATES 220-250 FEET LONG, AROUND 1000-TON
DISPLACEMENT, WITH HELICOPTER CAPABILITY (POSSIBLY LAMPS).
THEY ALSO INTERESTED IN PURCHASING, AT CONCESSIONAL PRICES,
IF POSSIBLE, FOUR GEARING TYPE DESTROYERS, AND IN PURCHASE FOUR
BARBELL CLASS SUBMARINES.

3. (C) INDONESIANS WISH SEND MISSION TO WASHINGTON AS EARLY
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AS FEBRUARY FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION THESE POSSIBLE ACQUISITIONS.

4. (C) BECAUSE OF MOUNTING COSTS AND UNCERTAINTY REGARDING DELIVERY DATES AND SPARE PARTS, INDONESIANS HAVE CANCELLED ORDER WITH UK FOR FRIGATES. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY, IF WE CAN, TO THEIR REQUEST TO US, BUT AT SAME TIME BE TOTALLY FRANK WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE ULTIMATE COST AND REALISTIC DELIVERY TIME.

5. (C) ADDITIONAL SHIP PURCHASES OBVIOUSLY HIGH PRIORITY WITH INDONESIANS. I CAN EXPECT TO BE ASKED VERY SOON AFTER MY RETURN JANUARY 4 ABOUT WASHINGTON REACTION. WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE GUIDANCE BY THAT TIME, TO JAKARTA. AT MINIMUM I SHOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ADVISE ON WHETHER TO ENCOURAGE INDONESIANS TO SEND MISSION FOR POSSIBLY DETAILED DISCUSSIONS IN EARLY FEBRUARY OR ALTERNATIVELY SUGGEST THAT CNO PREPARED TO SEND QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVE TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE OR POSSIBLE IN DESIGN, WEAPONS SYSTEMS, PROCUREMENT SCHEDULES AND COSTS FOR VESSEL OF TYPE MENTIONED ABOVE.
GDS-81. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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